

PATENT
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SD upon an attribute value to each item of the phoneme data on the basis of order obtained by sorting; and

selection means for selecting, from the phoneme data retrieved by said retrieval means, and based upon the penalty assigned by said first penalty assigning means, phoneme data to be employed in synthesis of a speech waveform.

26. A speech synthesizing method comprising:

a storage step of storing plural items of phoneme data;

a retrieval step of retrieving phoneme data, in accordance with given search retrieval conditions, from the plural items of phoneme data stored at said storage step;

a first penalty assigning step of sorting the phoneme data retrieved at said retrieving step based upon a prescribed attribute value and of assigning a penalty that is based upon an attribute value to each item of the phoneme data on the basis of order obtained by sorting; and

a selection step of selecting, from the phoneme data retrieved at said retrieval step, and based upon the penalty assigned at said first penalty assigning step, phoneme data employed in synthesis of a speech waveform.

27. A storage medium storing a control program for causing a computer to execute speech synthesis using phoneme data, said control program having:

code of a storage step of storing plural items of phoneme data;

code of a retrieval step of retrieving phoneme data, in accordance with given search retrieval conditions, from the plural items of phoneme data stored at said storage step;

code of a first penalty assigning step of sorting the phoneme data retrieved at said retrieving step based upon a prescribed attribute value and of assigning a penalty that is based